a piece of waste land and cleared it for cultivation was the owner of that land. The Mahomedan rulers of India had also recognised the force of that theory in practice. But, it was probably too late in the day to go back to the days of Manu. The Member's second contention was that the existing Puduval Rules were extremely faulty. He referred to the Pattom Proclamation of 1040 and doubted whether under it aliens could acquire rights of permanent occupancy in Government lands and observed that anything more than *Pandarapattom* tenure should not be created under the rules. He also suggested that the rules should be put into a legislative enactment clearly indicating the policy underlying the same. In conclusion, the Member pleaded for open public enquiries being held in the matter of registration of *puduvals* and put in a strong plea for prompt completion of such enquiries and for practical effect being given to the rule granting preferential rights to natives over foreigners whenever lands were registered.

Mr. P. A. Abraham B. A., B. L. (Member, Kottayam taluk) complained of *puduval* grievances and of the manner in which waste lands were being registered in such taluks as Muvattupuzha, Thodupuzha and Kunnatnad. His chief point was that the people were not being given access to the records connected with *puduval* enquiries. The newspapers were full of complaints and alleged abuse of powers by the Revenue officers. The appointment of a Committee to go into such matters was suggested. The launching of several companies for bringing land under some kind of cultivation or other was a sign of the awakening of the people to a growing demand for land. Another matter dealt with by the Member was the long delay in the disposal of *puduval* applications. The intention of Government to have marshy lands suitable for paddy cultivation in the Forest Reserves excised and thrown open for registry was not being carried out because of the opposition of the Forest Officers. *Inter alia* the Member observed that, in view of the good pioneering work done by the European planters, he was in favour of giving waste lands to them. The fixing of *tharavila* was, he said, being arbitrarily done and was a fruitful source of hardship to the ryot. In northern taluks what was done was to sub-divide lands in such a way as to bring their disposal under the jurisdiction of the local Revenue officials. Sometimes unfair competition was engendered with motives not altogether just or commendable. The practice of auctioning waste lands and giving them to the highest bidder was not consistent with the declared land policy of Government which was to promote the ryots' good. Finally, the Member said that prohibitory assessment was being realised without any information being given to the party concerned, the fact being known only when steps were taken to realise the amount. Such a procedure landed the State also in pecuniary loss, besides involving it in litigation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. Grant of additional lands for extension of estates.

Mr. R. Ross (Member, South Travancore Planters' Association) said that firewood in some estates was getting extremely scarce and was a necessity for both tea and rubber. In the Ponmudi District most of the estates had been under cultivation for the last 50 years and fuel had been almost exhausted. The forest land applied for was in many cases both unworkable and useless in so far as the Forest Department was concerned. He requested that such lands wanted by Planters might be granted on reasonable terms for fuel purposes as well as for extensions in tea and other products.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

11. Reduction of *tharavila* on *puduval* lands in the Devicolam Division with a view to extend cultivation on the hills.

Mr. C. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Nominated) submitted that the high rate of *tharavila* on *puduval* lands in the Devicolam Division, *viz*, Rs. 25 per acre, was a source of discouragement to people applying for registry of lands in that Division. Consequently, most of the lands which could have been brought under cultivation were allowed to lie waste. The destruction of crops by wild beasts, the unhealthiness of the locality and the heavy cost of cultivation rendered the grant of special

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facilities to the ryots at the hands of the Government necessary. But the rates levied in the Devicolam Division were greater than those provided in the Puduval Rules. The Member, therefore, prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) The rate of assessment for lands should be fixed at annas four per acre for five years and slightly increased from the sixth year.

(2) The maximum *tharavila* should be fixed at Rs. 5 per acre, and the same recovered in three annual instalments beginning from the sixth year.

(3) The necessary irrigation tanks and canals useful for cultivation should be constructed.

(4) The fees imposed for the grazing of cattle should be abolished and free removal of timber of less valuable species for building purposes permitted.

(5) The ryots should be permitted the free use of arms and ammunition for protection of person and property.

(6) The Devicolam-Kumili road should be opened soon, and, pending its completion, a six feet trace should be opened with a view to afford to the ryots access to the properties under cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

12. Difficulties experienced by Pulayas in securing dwelling sites.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) complained of the great difficulty experienced by the Pulayas in getting lands for dwelling sites. In pursuance of the orders of Government to register 500 acres of land in the Vilappil *pakuthi* in the names of Pulayas free of *tharavila* and *thadivila*, only a few acres had been hitherto granted and some of the Pulayas in the Neyyattinkara taluk had not been able to get one acre of *puduval* land per head. He submitted that it would be a great boon if lands could be granted to Pulayas in other parts of Travancore also for dwelling sites, and prayed that the grievances of the Pulayas in the matter of getting dwelling sites might be redressed as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

13. Need for opening a colony of Pulayas in Survey Number 790/1 in Rani *pakuthi*, Chengannur taluk.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the concessions to his community in connection with the registry of *puduval* lands and for the scope thus given for exerting themselves which was a more valuable gift than a colony for their exclusive use; but he submitted with reluctance that the good intentions of Government were not being fully realised, as the *puduval* lands applied for and occupied by Pulayas were being assigned away to wealthy persons and as they were in some cases evicted from their small holdings. He appealed to Government to see that those whose duty it was to prepare *ozhuqus* were sympathetic towards them. The Member's special request was that all available waste lands—whether *puduval* or *poramboke*—be ordered to be registered in the names of members of such depressed classes as Parayas, Pulayas, Vetar, Ulladar, &c. on the distinct condition that the concessions would be withdrawn on their alienating the lands. He further requested that small villages consisting of a few neat model houses be constructed by Government and granted to them, such arrangements being made by Government as would enable them to recoup the cost by annual instalments from the proceeds of their labour.

The Member also pointed out that, in cases in which lands were granted to Missionary bodies on behalf of Pulaya converts, the latter were often deprived of the fruits of their hard labour whenever they gave up Christianity. He, therefore, prayed that those and other grievances might be looked into and redressed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-10 P. M.

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